

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126264

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 4056 ACTION SECSTATE 12 JUN 74

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UNCLAS BRUSSELS 4056

PASS TO COMMISSIONER ACREE, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BE

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL; WORKING PARTY
ON CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

1. AT ITS 43RD/44TH SESSIONS THE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL ON THE BASIS OF ITS DISCUSSIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A WORKING PARTY ON CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT.

2. IN THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM IT WAS STRESSED THAT DRUG SUMUGGLING CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR CAUSE OF CONCERN TO THE MAJORITY TO COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THAT THE INTERDICTION CAPABILITIES OF THEIR CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS COULD BE MATERIALLY STRENGTHENED IN A COMBINED EFFORT WORKING THROUGH THE COUNCIL. THE NEED OF ADDITIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF COMMERCIAL FRAUD WAS ALSO INDICATED AND AGREED TO ALTHOUGH THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 126264

PRIMARY FOCUS WAS ON THE CUSTOMS INTERDICTION OF

SMUGGLING, PARTICULARLY DRUGS.

3. IN TAKING THIS DECISION THE COUNCIL NOTED ITS PAST ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA AND REAFFIRMED THAT IT HAD BOTH A RESPONSIBILITY AND A CAPABILITY FOR PROMOTING AND ACCELERATING COOPERATION BETWEEN CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE FIELD OF ENFORCEMENT AND THAT ITS ROLE IN THIS AREAS SHOULD BE INTENSIFIED.

4. THE WORKING PARTY WILL MEET TWICE DURING THE NEXT YEAR UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND IS CHARGED WITH THE CONSIDERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITEMS OF SPECIFIC CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AND INTERDICTION PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES IN ORDER TO COORDINATE THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND EFFECTIVE APPLICATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES. IT WAS ALSO CHARGED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH INTERPOL AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH COMBATTING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC. THE INTERPOL OBSERVER AT THE SESSION INDICATED THE INTEREST OF THAT ORGANIZATION IN PARTICIPATING IN THE WORKING PARTY AND THIS WAS AGREED TO.

5. THE WORKING PARTY WILL ALSO REVIEW THE EXISTING COUNCIL INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS THOSE ON MUTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE (1953), CUSTOMS FRAUD (1967) AND THE SPONTANEOUS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCE (1971) FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPDATING THEM AND BROADENING THEIR SCOPE AS WELL AS DEVELOPING ANY NEW INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS INDICATED TO BE REQUIRED.

6. IN TAKING THIS DECISION ARISING OUT OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS MADE BY THE U.S., AUSTRALIA AND OTHERS, THE COUNCIL AND ITS MEMBERS HAVE RECOGNIZED THE ADVANTAGES THAT CAN ACCRUE TO CUSTOMS INTERDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES THROUGH A MULTILATERAL APPROACH AND A MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE COUNCIL ITSELF, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ITS EXPANDED SIZE AND WORLDWIDE SCOPE. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE DECISION INDICATED A HIGH DEGREE OF ENTHUSIASM.

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PAGE 03 STATE 126264

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